

Question four: How long will these troops be there? It's not enough to decide we can manage it for another year or two with greater deployment. Without a specific end date, a decision to increase deployment today means more troops next year and the year after that.

Question five: Where will we get enough troops with the experience needed in Afghanistan? The military needs more IED experts to diffuse roadside bombs; however, it takes 11 months to train a bomb specialist, and these specialists are already in short supply.

We also need translators, medical officers, and other specialists that could require a great deal of training, yet we continue to kick out such specialists because of the immoral and extraordinarily shortsighted "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Question six: How many NATO forces can we count on, and how will we maintain an effective command structure? We are told that this cannot be a go-it-alone mission, but resources in other NATO countries are limited, and incidents such as the German airstrike show the dangers of coalition warfare.

Question seven: Can we count on the Government of Pakistan to remain with us in this fight? Pakistan has a great deal of trouble controlling the tribal areas, and our continued presence is causing more unrest in the cities.

Question eight: Is it worth American lives to prop up the Government of Afghanistan? The Government faces serious charges of election fraud and corruption, and it appears to be losing control over much of the country as the Taliban moves in.

Question nine: Is this a winnable war? In General McChrystal's recent report he states that although the situation is serious, success is still achievable, but we still don't have a definition of success.

Final question: Is the war in Afghanistan really the best approach to protect the American people from terrorism? Our focus needs to be on protecting the people of the United States and stopping the international spread of terrorism. If this war is not the best way to do that, we need to leave. We cannot send more troops to fight for an undefined amount of time in an undefined mission and for an undefined success.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RESPECTING FAITH OF MILITARY CHAPLAINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, this year, I introduced H.R. 268, a bill to make sure that our military chaplains of all faiths and religions are able to close a prayer in any way they see fit.

America was built on religious freedom, and that is why I am truly disturbed by a letter that was sent to Secretary Gates from the Freedom from Religion Foundation. This organization has taken exception to the fact that while speaking on the anniversary of D-day in France, U.S. Military Chaplain Thomas MacGregor closed a prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. This is just another example of how this country's Judeo-Christian values have been under assault.

As I think my colleagues know, I am a man that respects all faiths, whether it be Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and I would be just as upset if a chaplain from a non-Christian religion came under the same attack. I respect the rights of nonbelievers just as I respect the rights of believers.

It is a sad day in America when a military chaplain is criticized for closing his prayer in a way that is true to his faith.

In closing, with our young men and women fighting for religious freedom for people overseas, it is our duty to protect our own military chaplains and respect the faith of each of them.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I do this frequently on the floor of the House because my heart aches for those over in Afghanistan and Iraq. I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in His loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I ask God to please bless the President of the United States with wisdom, strength and courage to do what is right for America. And I close three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND'S SUCCESSION TO NATO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, September 1, 2009, and September 17, 2009, mark the 70th anniversary of Poland's invasion on the west by Nazi Germany and on the east 3 weeks later by the Soviet Red Army. It triggered the start of World War II. World War II began with the invasion of Poland.

Poland suffered the loss of more citizens, percentage-wise, during that war—over 20 percent of its people—under domination by the Nazis and Communists than any other nation. You would think that to mark these historically important and solemn occasions on this 70th anniversary our Congress and our President would have

passed a commemoration supporting Poland's struggle for liberty and its recent democratic advances. You would think that our Nation, a nation that owes so much to Poland for inspiring our own struggle for freedom at our Nation's founding, and to its great generals, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, chief engineer of our Continental Army, and Casimir Pulaski, who saved the life of General George Washington, that we would have risen to praise the 10th anniversary of Poland's succession to NATO and its support of our current military engagements in the war on terror.

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This year Poland will mark one decade as a signatory of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an intrinsic part of the United States' strategic foreign policy. September 17 should have been a reverent commemoration of an extraordinary effort that cost so many lives but seeded and bequeathed a powerful sense of freedom and democracy inside the Nation of Poland that ultimately yielded solidarity and strikes that began in 1956 until the final solidarity victory in 1989 and the collapse of the Berlin Wall. September 17 should be a day that commends the valiant people of Poland for their historic struggle against fascism and communism and commemorates the sacrifices made by the Polish people, including those who have since become American citizens.

On that day, our President should have called for strength and partnership in the NATO organization, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, European Union alliances, and continued friendship with our Polish allies in the furtherance of freedom's cause. We should have honored the historic ties that our two great nations have fashioned over two centuries.

Instead, on September 17, on the very anniversary date of the heinous Communist invasion of Poland, our government and the Obama administration chose to withdraw support of the proposed antiballistic missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. Whatever one's views of the merits or demerits of that defensive system, the choice of that date to announce this historic withdrawal is truly an insult to the Nation of Poland and to the people of Poland. Our Nation not only owes Poland an apology, we owe her affirmative support.

The United States has had diplomatic relations with this region since they were first established in April 1919—after having been wiped off the maps of Europe for over a century—with the then-newly formed Polish Republic, while the two nations have enjoyed consistently warm bilateral relations since 1989. The Polish Government has been a strong supporter of continued American military and economic presence in Europe. We have a shared love of freedom and democracy. They have supported our global war on